



RESOLUTION NO. 40778

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
2 McCARTHY, THOMS, AND USHKA

3 A RESOLUTION relating to Equity and Empowerment; renaming Fireman's Park,
4 located at 801 "A" Street, to Firefighters' Park, to align the name of this
5 public park with the goals of the guiding City principles of equity, diversity,
6 and inclusion, while continuing to recognize the history and contributions of
7 Tacoma's Fire Department.

8 WHEREAS in 2014, the City Council adopted an Equity and Empowerment
9 framework which made equity a guiding principle across the organization and
10 committed the City to changing practices which created or sustained inequities,
11 and

12 WHEREAS on August 20, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution
13 No. 40408 amending the City's policy on place names and name changes, with a
14 primary recommendation for updating this policy to align with guiding City
15 principles, and including the concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusion when
16 considering place names and name changes throughout the City; this policy
17 amendment also provided the Mayor and City Council with the authority to make
18 naming proposals, and

19 WHEREAS the Tacoma Fire Department ("TFD") has been working to meet
20 the organization-wide goal of having employees who reflect the diversity of the
21 City, and part of this work has included efforts to increase representation of women
22 in the TFD workforce, and

23 WHEREAS this renaming request seeks to acknowledge this work and align
24 the name of this public park with the goals of the guiding City principles of equity,
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1 diversity, and inclusion, while continuing to recognize the history and many
2 contributions of the TFD, and

3 WHEREAS in addition to efforts to recruit a more racially diverse staff,
4 targeted outreach to women is now a standard recruiting practice, and TFD has
5 partnered with the Human Resources Department (“HR”) on efforts like the 2019
6 “Women’s Firefighter Workshop,” and
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8 WHEREAS in 2020, HR created virtual sessions due to the COVID-19
9 pandemic, and 80 women attended, and

10 WHEREAS efforts like these have resulted in 54 out of the 404 uniformed
11 staff being women (13.4 percent) who are currently employed by TFD; the current
12 average across the nation is closer to 5 percent, and

13 WHEREAS, additionally nine of these women are Firefighter-Paramedics,
14 with seven serving in supervisory/leadership roles, including an Assistant Chief,
15 and one who was elected to serve as the first female President of the Firefighter’s
16 union, and
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18 WHEREAS in 2019, in acknowledgment that a firefighting career is not for
19 men alone, TFD Lieutenant Marja Stowell took the initiative to request the
20 renaming of Fireman’s Park to Firefighters’ Park, in keeping with the City’s value of
21 equity, and an online petition was circulated in May of 2019 as part of that effort,
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WHEREAS in response to Lt. Stowell’s request and in alignment with Resolution No. 40408, Mayor Woodards announced an intent to bring forward a proposal to rename the park in March 2020 during that year’s State of the City Address, however the renaming proposal was delayed due to COVID-19-related restrictions on the legislation that could be brought forward in newly virtual public meetings, as well as the need to pivot attention to emergency response efforts, and

WHEREAS in addition to last year’s public announcement and as part of her outreach efforts, Mayor Woodards sought the support of Downtown Tacoma Partnership and Tacoma Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 31, and at the Mayor’s request, staff provided notice to the City of Tacoma’s Landmarks Preservation Commission on April 22, 2021, prior to City Council discussion of this item in Study Session, and

WHEREAS this year, Mayor Woodards proposes that a resolution renaming the park be considered on International Firefighters’ Day on May 4, 2021; Now, Therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to rename Fireman’s Park, located at 801 “A” Street, to Firefighters’ Park, to align the name of this public park with the goals of the guiding City principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney